

CLAIMS

1. A method of preparing a continuous strand mat, the strands coming from at least one roving thrown onto a  
5 conveyor belt, in which method:

- at least one roving package supported on a spindle is paid out via the outside, the rate of said pay-out being imposed by a motor acting directly on the roving package so that the linear speed of the paid-out  
10 roving is constant; then

- the roving passes through a nozzle, by passing through an entry and then an exit of the nozzle, said nozzle being also provided with a transverse injection of at least one fluid, said fluid being mainly directed  
15 toward the exit of the nozzle, inducing a tension toward the bottom of the roving, said fluid also dividing the roving; and then

- the strands forming the roving are thrown in an oscillatory movement onto said conveyor belt.

20 2. The method as claimed in the preceding claim, characterized in that the speed of the roving paid out is measured by an encoder coupled to a pulley driven by the roving.

25 3. The method as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the nozzle presents the fluid with a higher head loss at the entry than at the exit.

30 4. The method as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the roving comprises 2 to 50 strands.

35 5. The method as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the fluid has a pressure of between 2 and 10 bar.

6. The method as claimed in one of the preceding

claims, characterized in that the nozzle is also fed with water or with an aqueous solution or dispersion.

7. The method as claimed in one of the preceding  
5 claims, characterized in that the tension in the roving between the nozzle and the package is between 50 and 200 grams.

8. An installation for manufacturing mats formed from  
10 continuous strands coming from roving packages and thrown onto a conveyor belt, which comprises:

- at least one roving package supported on a spindle;
- a means of paying out the roving coming from the package;
- at least one nozzle through which the roving passes, by passing via an inlet and then an outlet of the nozzle, said nozzle being also provided with a transverse injection of at least one fluid, said fluid being directed mainly toward the exit of the nozzle, so as to induce a tension in the roving toward the exit; and
- a means of throwing the strands forming the roving onto said conveyor belt.

25 9. The installation as claimed in the preceding claim, characterized in that a pulley is driven by the paid-out roving, an encoder coupled to said pulley measuring the speed of said roving.

30 10. The installation as claimed in one of the preceding installation claims, characterized in that the nozzle is supported by the throwing means.

35 11. The installation as claimed in one of the preceding installation claims, characterized in that it includes at least two roving packages, each associated with a nozzle.